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INFORMATION FROM
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REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE OF
INFORMATION 1951

SUBJECT Economic - Electric power

DATE DIST. 9 Jun 1952

HOW
PUBLISHED Monthly, semimonthly periodicalsWHERE
PUBLISHED Moscow

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE
PUBLISHED Oct 1951

LANGUAGE Russian

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Periodicals as indicated.

THE IMPACT OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER CONSTRUCTION
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

A number of problems have arisen in connection with the realization of the great hydroelectric construction projects on the Volga, Don, Dnepr, and Amu-Dar'ya rivers. They relate to the location of new industries, trunk railroad lines, highways, and various branches of agriculture which will receive electric power and/or water from the new projects.

The new GES, with their planned total output of 23 billion kilowatt-hours, will supply electric power to several important economic regions of the USSR. The GES on the Volga River will be of interregional significance. Their output of electric power will influence the development of productive power not only in the Volga Region, but also in the Center and in the central chernozem region, which will receive a large part of the output of the GES.

The following table show the planned distribution in billions of kilowatt-hours.

	<u>Kuytyshev GES</u>	<u>Stalingrad GES</u>	<u>Total</u>
To central industrial region	6.1	4.0	10.1
To central chernozem region	--	1.2	1.2
To Volga Region	2.4	2.3	5.2
For irrigation and watering	1.5	2.0	3.5
	10.00	10.00	20.00

The central industrial region of the European USSR, consisting of the city of Moscow, Moscow Oblast, and other surrounding oblasts, will receive 61 percent of the output of the Kuytyshev GES and 40 percent of the output of the

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Stalingrad GES. The central industrial region is one of the most industrialized regions of the USSR using primarily locally produced fuels at present; however, it is still importing large quantities of Donets coal, even though the Shcherbakovo GES and the Uglich GES on the upper Volga, which supply power to general power transmission system of the region, have been completed.

The central chernozem region, which will receive 12 percent of the output of the Stalingrad GES, includes Voronezh, Tambov, Kursk and part of Orel oblasts. The region's acute shortage of fuel has retarded its industrialization considerably. The power supplied from the new Volga GES will be instrumental in the large-scale development of industries in the central industrial and central chernozem regions.

The Volga Region will receive 3.5 billion kilowatt-hours for its agricultural needs. Its industries and transport in Kuybyshev, Saratov, Stalingrad, and Astrakhan' oblasts will receive 24 percent of the output of the Kuybyshev GES and 25 percent of the output of the Stalingrad GES. Since the production of electric power by these two GES is expected to be 5 or 6 times cheaper than by the steam-electric power stations, favorable conditions for the development of the great power-consuming electrometallurgical and electrochemical industries will be created in the Volga Region. Availability of metal waste and scrap on the spot and favorable conditions for bringing in pig iron from the South and from the Urals will provide the possibility of building nonferrous metallurgical plants and those producing electric steel and ferroalloys near the GES. Various raw materials, such as petroleum products, natural gas, and the rich deposits of widely varying mineral salts in the Volga Region, western Urals, and Caspian region, are available for the development of the chemical industry. The coal of the eastern part of the Donbass, which is only 300 or 400 kilometers away from Stalingrad, can be considered as a local fuel for the Volga Region. Delivery of this coal will become much cheaper after the Volga-Don Canal has been completed.

The advantageous geographical location of the central industrial region and the southern mining region on the one hand and the Urals on the other, together with the water transportation facilities of the Volga River and its tributaries, create excellent conditions for the machine-building industry in the Volga Region. This industry, which has existed in the region since the last war, will develop further mainly by producing agricultural machinery, electric-power-producing machinery, ships, and other equipment needed for the great projects of the future. The Volga-Don Canal will bring pig iron into the region.(1)

The fact that 25 percent of the population of the USSR reside in the Volga River basin and that the water power resources of the river without its tributaries, if fully exploited, could produce 32 billion kilowatt-hours a year (about 60 billion with its tributaries) adds great significance to the future importance of the region.(2)

The construction of the Kakhovka GES and the South Ukrainian and North Crimean Canals will furnish a supply of electric power and fresh water for exploiting extremely rich deposits of sodium chloride, magnesium chloride, magnesium sulfate, salt of bromide and potassium, and others in the Sivash.

The completion of the Main Turkmen Canal, with its GES and water supply systems, will give a great incentive to the development of industries in western Turkmenia. A shortage of water, and, in some districts, the total absence of it, has retarded such a development until now. The elimination of this condition will provide the possibility for the rapid development of industries in the regions of Krasnovodsk, Tash-Dag, Chaleken, Kara-Bogaz-Golli, and others(1)

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SOURCES

1. Moscow, Voprosy Ekonomiki, No 10, Oct 51
2. Moscow, Bol'shevik, No 20, 1951

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